

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01676 291046Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7305

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 1676

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT CORRECTED PARA 1.)

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PLO LE MOPS

SUBJ: ARAFAT REPORTEDLY ACCEPTS CEASEFIRE

1. ON MARCH 28 EMBOFF MET WITH JAMES JONAH, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL AT ILMAC HQS IN BEIRUT. JONAH ALONG WITH GENERAL ERSKINE HAD JUST COME FROM A MEETING WITH YASIR ARAFAT. JONAH REPORTED THE FOLLOWING:

--ARAFAT HAD SAID THAT JONAH COULD TELL THE SECRETARY GENERAL THAT THE PLO WOULD ABIDE BY A CEASE-FIRE IN SOUTH LEBANON. BEFORE MAKING ITS ACCEPTANCE KNOWN PUBLICLY, HOWEVER, ARAFAT SAID HE NEEDED A PUBLIC APPEAL TO HIM FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL ASKING THAT THE PLO OBEY THE CEASE-FIRE. ARAFAT STRESSED HE NEEDED MEMBERS OF THE PLO TO ABIDE BY THE CEASE-FIRE.

--ARAFAT WAS FURIOUS THAT THE CEASE-FIRE HAD BEEN DECLARED WITHOUT MAKING PLO ONE OF THE PARTIES TO IT. PLO HAD LEGAL RIGHT TO BE IN SOUTH LEBANON AS ESTABLISHED

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 01676 291046Z

BY CAIRO AND RIYADH ACCORDS. THEREFORE, PLO SHOULD HAVE BEEN PARTY TO ANY CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT, ARAFAT SAID.

--ARAFAT SAID HE RECOGNIZED HE MIGHT HAVE TROUBLE IN INDUCING SOME FACTIONS IN THE PLO TO OBEY CEASE-FIRE. HE WOULD DO HIS BEST, HOWEVER, AND SECRETARY GENERAL'S PUBLIC APPEAL WOULD HELP IN THIS REGARD.

--ARAFAT SAID UNIFIL SHOULD DEPLOY ONLY IN AREAS UNDER CONTROL OF IDF. ARAFAT DID NOT WANT UNIFIL DEPLOYED IN TYRE OR AT QASIMIYAH BRIDGE. JONAH REPLIED TO ARAFAT THAT BOTH SIDES COULD WORK TO SORT OUT PROBLEMS OF DEPLOYMENT IF CEASE-FIRE WERE RESPECTED. JONAH COMMENTED TO EMBOFF THAT DEPLOYMENT WOULD BE DIFFICULT PROBLEM. HE CONFIRMED THAT FRENCH HAD HAD PROBLEMS WITH PALESTINIANS WHEN THEY ATTEMPTED TO DEPLOY NORTH FROM TYRE TO QASIMIYAH BRIDGE.

2. JONAH REMARKED THAT U.N. BELIEVED IT ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT LEBANON DEPLOY EITHER ARMY OR INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES TO SOUTH LEBANON TO HELP UNIFIL. JONAH SAID UNIFIL DID NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO STOP AND BODY-SEARCH PEOPLE, FOR EXAMPLE, WHILE LEBANESE FORCES COULD DO SO. SIILVASUO HAD TOLD BOUTROS LEBANESE MUST SEND SOME FORCES SOUTH. JONAH SAID LEBANESE HAD TOLD U.N. THEY COULD DEPLOY A BRIGADE SHORTLY, BUT "NOBODY BELIEVES THEM".

3. JONAH STRESSED THAT WE MUST KEEP ABOVE REMARKS ABSOLUTELY CONFIDENTIAL.  
PARKER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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